

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN OPPOSITION to L.D. 268**

LD TITLE: An Act To Improve Snowmobiling in the State

SPONSORED BY: Senator PATRICK of Oxford

DATE OF HEARING: March 7, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of the Licensing Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in opposition to L.D. 268.

L.D. 268 raises the annual registration fee for a snowmobile for a resident and nonresident by \$20 and raises the 3-day nonresident fee by \$7. It also changes the distribution of funds for all snowmobile registration types by dedicating \$27 from each registration to the Snowmobile Trail Fund. The bill also establishes a nonresident 7-day registration for \$75. Lastly, the bill specifies that a refund of \$10 be given to a person who registers a snowmobile before January 1st.

The department feels that this proposal would complicate the snowmobile registration process for our customers, our agents, and department personnel. The proposed changes would also negatively impact department funding without a proposed offset for that impact. In addition, there would be a significant decrease in funding that is distributed back to Maine towns. The department understands the need to increase funding to snowmobile clubs for trail maintenance but it is opposed to this method of doing so.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session. If this Committee would like, staff from the Division of Parks and Public Lands at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry can also be available at the work session to answer questions related to current funding of snowmobile trails.